

**Amendments to the Claims**

1. (currently amended) A method for sending electronic mail, including  
separating at least one attachment from a text portion in an electronic  
mail message such that a link is created between said at least one  
attachment and said text portion;  
~~delivering to a recipient said text portion separately from said at least one  
attachment; and~~  
delivering said at least one attachment at a time other than when said text  
portion is delivered;  
using a non-email transfer protocol to deliver said at least one  
attachment;  
selecting a preferred method for delivery; and  
making said at least one attachment available from said text portion.

2-14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) The method of claim [12] 1, wherein said selecting further  
includes probing the receiving device to ascertain at least one preferred format, ~~at least  
one caching location, or at least one transfer protocol for delivery of said at least one  
attachment~~ and reformatting and transferring said at least one attachment using said at  
least one format, ~~at least one caching location, or at least one transfer protocol~~  
responsive to said probing.

16. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said making further includes  
publishing said at least one attachment at a location relatively local to a recipient  
device;  
initiating a fetch for said at least one attachment;  
fetching said at least one attachment;  
presenting said at least one attachment to said recipient; and  
scanning said electronic mail automatically on a regular basis for one of said  
links embedded in said electronic mail message and pre-fetching an

associated attachment to be cached at a location relatively local to a recipient device.

17. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein said publishing occurs at some combination of: (1) a sender gateway, (2) an application service provider, and (3) a recipient gateway.

18. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein said initiating is directed at some combination of: (1) a sender gateway, (2) an application service provider, and (3) a recipient gateway.

19. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein said at least one attachment is located at its cached location and transferred to said recipient device.

20. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein said at least one attachment has been predownloaded to said recipient device.

21. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein said scanning is performed by some combination of: (1) a sender gateway, (2) an application service provider, and (3) a recipient gateway.

22. (currently amended) [A] An apparatus for sending electronic mail, including  
means for separating at least one attachment from a text portion in an electronic  
mail message such that a link is created between said at least one  
attachment and said text portion;  
~~means for delivering to a recipient said text portion separately from said at least~~  
~~one attachment; and~~  
means for delivering said at least one attachment at a time other than when said  
text portion is delivered;  
means for using a non-email transfer protocol to deliver said at least one  
attachment;

means for selecting a preferred method for delivery; and

means for making said at least one attachment available from said text portion.

23-35. (canceled)

36. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim [33] 22, wherein said means for selecting further includes means for probing the receiving device to ascertain at least one preferred format, ~~at least one caching location, or at least one transfer protocol for delivery of said at least one attachment~~ and means for reformatting and transferring said at least one attachment using said at least one format, ~~at least one caching location, or at least one transfer protocol responsive to said means for probing.~~

37. (original) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein said means for making further includes

means for publishing said at least one attachment at a location relatively local to a recipient device;

means for initiating a fetch for said at least one attachment;

means for fetching said at least one attachment;

means for presenting said at least one attachment to said recipient; and

means for scanning said electronic mail automatically on a regular basis for one of said links embedded in said electronic mail message and means for pre-fetching an associated attachment to be cached at a location relatively local to a recipient device.

38. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein said means for publishing occurs at some combination of: (1) a sender gateway, (2) an application service provider, and (3) a recipient gateway.

39. (original) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein said means for initiating is directed at some combination of: (1) a sender gateway, (2) an application service provider, and (3) a recipient gateway.

40. (original) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein said at least one attachment is located at its cached location and transferred to said recipient device.

41. (original) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein said at least one attachment has been predownloaded to said recipient device.

42. (original) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein said means for scanning is performed by some combination of: (1) a sender gateway, (2) an application service provider, and (3) a recipient gateway.

43. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein said selecting further includes probing the receiving device to ascertain at least one caching location and transferring said at least one attachment using said at least one caching location responsive to said probing.

44. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein said selecting further includes probing the receiving device to ascertain at least one transfer protocol for delivery of said at least one attachment and transferring said at least one attachment using said at least one transfer protocol responsive to said probing.

45. (new) The apparatus of claim [33] 22, wherein said means for selecting further includes means for probing the receiving device to ascertain at least one caching location and means for transferring said at least one attachment using said at least one caching location responsive to said means for probing.

46. (new) The apparatus of claim [33] 22, wherein said means for selecting further includes means for probing the receiving device to ascertain at least one transfer protocol for delivery of said at least one attachment and means for transferring said at least one attachment using said at least one transfer protocol responsive to said means for probing.